

REMARKABLE STORY OF COAL COMBINATION.

Sent From Beaver Dam and Published Without Investigation as to Facts.

SINGULAR IGNORANCE OF FACTS IN THE STORY.

Asserted that Mr. J. B. Atkinson Owns Fourteen Mines and Will Combine Others.

THERE IS NOTHING IN IT.

A remarkable stupid report was sent out from Beaver Dam, Ky., last Friday, which found space for publication without comment or investigation in the Louisville Evening Post, an Owensboro paper and the Madisonville Hustler. This report touches nearly all the coal operators of Western Kentucky and asserts that a big combination will be effected with Mr. J. B. Atkinson.

Here is the Beaver Dam telegram:

Beaver Dam, Ky., Oct. 31.—There is a move on foot to consolidate all the coal mines in Western Kentucky, and it is said, on what seems good authority, too, that the deal will be consummated within the next two or three weeks. Mr. J. B. Atkinson, of Earlington, who owns fourteen mines in Hopkins and Webster counties, is managing the big deal for an Eastern syndicate. If the deal goes through it will include, besides all the mines in Hopkins and Webster counties, the collieries at the following places: Taylor, Williams, Henry, Rander, Echols, Central City, Bevier, Drakesboro, Mud River, Powderly, Hillside, Oakland, Lucerne and St. Charles. Mr. Atkinson is the only operator in the entire Western Kentucky district who does not employ union labor.

There are about 1,000 union miners in this county (Ohio) alone, and they are all very much interested in the deal. They think that if it goes through Mr. Atkinson will have control and will try to substitute nonunion labor.

The facts of the matter, as telegraphed to the daily press by the Earlington correspondent, are stated in the appended dispatch. This correction was printed in the Louisville papers Saturday, the day following the publication of the Beaver Dam grapevine story. People who have read all of the widely published facts concerning this coal field, recognized the singular lack of truth in some of the statements in the above dispatch. To those yet unenlightened the following dispatch will convey some interesting information:

Earlington, Ky., Nov. 1.—It is emphatically denied at the office of the St. Bernard Mining Company this morning that Mr. John B. Atkinson, President of that company, has anything to do with any deal for the combination of coal mines in the Western Kentucky coal field, as was reported from Beaver Dam yesterday. Mr. Atkinson was called east last night on account of the death of a relative and could not be seen. Other statements in the report referred to are also incorrect. Mr. Atkinson does not own fourteen mines in Hopkins and Webster counties, as stated, but his company does own and operate seven mines in Hopkins and owns certain lands in Webster county, which have not been developed.

There are other important errors of statement in the dispatch referred to, which interest the people of this section. One of these is that Mr. Atkinson is the only operator in the entire Western Kentucky district who does not employ union labor. Outside of the St. Bernard Mining Company, there are six other operators in Hopkins and four operators in Webster and Christian counties, none of whom employ union labor.

It is positively stated that Mr. Atkinson is not now and has at no time been interested or taken part

in any negotiations for the consolidation of his properties with any of the other properties in Western Kentucky or elsewhere.

A Letter From Bro. and Mrs. Currie.

Owensboro, Ky., Oct. 27, 1902. We are most pleasantly situated in our new home, with all the necessities of life about us and many new made friends to cheer us. The old time method of pounding the preacher was practiced on us our first night, and we are still feasting on the good things brought us. We have a good, loyal band of members in our church here, although they have been somewhat tempest tossed for the last few years. There seems to be a better day dawning for them and already the signs indicate a good year this time.

The people have taken hold of the pastor and his wife and we are going, by God's grace, to lead them on to victory.

We have a lovely little home, with all the heavy furnished, furnished; and we are keeping house now like old-timers. When you come to Owensboro drop in to see your old pastor and wife who love you all.

Our congregations are growing already, and as we go out into the field and mix with these people we expect to see it grow a great deal. We already love our people and thank God for the opportunity of doing good for them. We shall always love the friends of our past two years, and wish them all the blessings that are due the faithful.

With greetings and salutations to pastor and people we are, with gratitude and love,

YOUR EX-PASTOR AND WIFE.

Strange but True.

The girls in Earlington would be indignant if someone were to tell them that boys have more self respect than they have, yet such is the fact. There is not a young man of any degree of respectability who would be seen walking down the street with a girl who drinks or uses profane, vile language. You might search the streets with a finetooth comb and you would not be able to find a young man who would lock arms and walk down the street with a young lady puffing a cigar or squirting tobacco juice all over the sidewalk. Yet the girls do not hesitate to accept such company and far too many of them tolerate things in men that would in no case be allowed by the opposite sex. Society will be refined only when the girls demand of the boys who desire to pay them attention the same purity of character and high moral standard the boys demand of them. It is in the power of the young ladies of this land to inaugurate and successfully carry on one of the greatest waves of moral reform that has ever swept over this land of ours and it remains to be seen who will have the courage to take the initial step in the right direction.

Bloodhounds Couldn't Trail Her.

Coming up the street the other night behind three damsels of color, we were fortunate enough to hear the following conversation:

"I tells you whut, Mandy, you better look sharp about doin' your devilment now; Mr. Lindle done got two bloodhounds and when dem things gits after you they shore brings you back."

Mandy grunted disdainfully and said:

"You don't know nuffin about blood hounds; I dun tried em and dey can't catch de scent if you rubs cayenne pepper or onions on yo feet; pears lack it flusterates em so dey dunno which way to go."

At this juncture it was our place to turn off and we turned without hearing the remainder of this interesting conversation.

Insurance agents met at Louisville and pass resolutions condemning "wild cat" companies.

THE MAN AHEAD.

BLUE G. HARD.

There's the man behind the counter
And the man behind the gun,
The man behind the buzz-saw
And the man behind the sun.

There's the man behind the times,
The man behind with rent,
The man who spends his money
And never has a cent.

There's the man behind the kodak
And the man behind the cars,
The man behind on pay day
And the man behind the bars.

But there is another man
Of whom nothing much is said;
He is the fellow who is even,
Or a little bit ahead.

He always pays for what he gets,
His bills are always signed.
He's a darn sight more important
Than the man who is behind.

All the editors and merchants
And the whole commercial clan
Are indebted for existence
To this noble, honest man.

He keeps them all in business
And his town is never dead,
And so we take our hat off
To the man who is ahead.

DAWSON WINS

By a Majority of 7.—Score of the Dawson and Earlington Gun Clubs.

Earlington.	Dawson.
Barter.....29	Lutz.....31
Renfrow.....35	Perry.....33
Keown.....26	Wallace.....33
Long.....26	Dempsey.....26
Arnold.....28	Barnett.....20
Griffin.....18	Clark.....23
Goodloe.....17	Fox.....27
Oldham.....21	Lindsey.....20
Smith.....17	Steward.....11
Total.....217	Total.....224
Smith and Steward shot only 30 shots.	The others shot 50.

An Education at a Nominal Cost.

(Catalogues and Journals Free.)

The Southern Normal School and Bowling Green Business College, of Bowling Green, Kentucky, are two of the greatest schools of their kind in the South. During the year just closed, more than 1,000 different boarding students matriculated, more than three hundred of these being in the Business College alone. The institution is magnificently equipped and the work is thoroughly organized. Specialists are in charge of the various departments and the instruction is high-class and thorough. The Normal School operates the schools of Law, Music, Elocution and Oratory, Pedagogy and the Preparatory. County Certificate, State Certificate, Junior Scientific, Senior Scientific and Classical Courses. The Business College embraces the departments of Penmanship, Stenography and Typewriting, Telegraphy and Civil Service, and in addition the regular courses in Book-keeping. Expenses are very reasonable. The Business College does the finest work of any in the South in getting lucrative positions for its graduates. Those interested are cordially invited to send for catalogue and circulars. Address

H. H. CHERRY,
Bowling Green, Ky.

There was a large house at the Auditorium last night, where Harry Ward's minstrels sang and danced their way into the good graces of the audience. There was plenty of applause, and the performance deserved it. It was a creditable affair, both scenically and vocally. The opening set was more elaborate than any that has been seen at the big house this season, and would have done credit to any troupe. Several of the specialties introduced were received with vociferous welcome which made it a difficult matter for the performers to get off the stage. Harry Ward himself was one of the hits, and the dancing specialty of Iners and Neff was a good example of buck and wing dancing. There were also some good voices in the organization, and the singing of the Harmonic Four pleased the large audience immensely. Manager Stainback has been very fortunate this season with the engagements at his house, and last night was no exception.—Memphis Appeal-Avalanche.

There was quite an excitement created near the depot Tuesday, a mule attached to a wagon fell down. Everyone thought it was a fight, hence the excitement.

DOWN IN THE MINES.

Judging from newspaper reports coke ovens will soon be constructed at Sturgis, Ky. These reports say that a coal especially adapted to the production of coke has been discovered there, but the probability is that it is of the same quality as we have here. The great demand of late for coke is, no doubt, mostly caused by the anthracite coal strike opening up a market for this fuel to take the place of hard coal.

W. G. Wright, bookkeeper for the Crabtree Coal Co., was over here last Sunday on a visit to family and friends. The new house, being constructed for his use at Ilsley, will be completed in about two weeks, where he will move his family there.

If Madisonville strikes a flow of gas while sinking a well, why could not a good paying well be found here?

The parties who secured the option on coal right at Robards have, we understand, lost out by lapse of time limit on options.

Geo. C. Atkinson, James R. Rash, Paul M. Moore and H. C. Bourland, of the St. Bernard Mining Co., will take part in the conference of the Shrine degree upon several candidates next Saturday at Madisonville.

Mr. John Nolan, agent for the St. Bernard Mining Co. and R. R. Co., combined, at Barnesley, is in very feeble health and it is thought will be compelled to go south for a few months. A bronchial trouble seems to be the affliction from which he has been a great sufferer for months past.

The widow of the late Barton Crutchfield, superintendent of the St. Charles mine, will, we understand, soon purchase property and move to Earlington.

A false rumor afloat last week to the effect that the Western Kentucky coal mines would enter a combine, of which the St. Bernard Mining Co. was the leading factor, was quickly contradicted by the local correspondent of leading daily papers.

The first of the month resembled somewhat of a holiday at this place, as hundreds of miners were seen in and around the stores, ordering and having goods delivered to their homes. This monthly performance is a pleasant sight to witness. All are apparently happy and able to secure the desirable things of life, if they show a willingness to work.

Generally speaking the public, on the outside of those directly engaged in the coal mining business, are possessed of the idea that immense fortunes are made by coal operators and owners of coal producing properties, and when told the contrary they are slow to believe. It is nevertheless a fact that there is little profit in the coal business, if we can believe the statement of such worthy men as Mr. Fred Powell, of Sebree, who has been actively engaged in the coal business at that place for several years past, and who, for the reason that he could not profitably run the mine at that place, sold his interests in the Sebree coal mine to Mr. Ramsey, of that place, who will continue its operation. Mr. Powell says he could make no money, in fact not enough to pay interests on investments, and, desiring to get rid of the worry for nothing, he sold out, with the exception of the mineral rights on about 1,700 acres, which he will hold for higher

prices.

A local cart driver, hauling coal about the city, became so incensed at a mule that he knocked it down with a whip. He was called to account in the police court and fined.

The little "Sudie" engine, placed at the South Diamond mine, was operated some last week. We are told that Mr. Colly Brown will be the engineer in charge as soon as regular work is begun.

Engineer Joe Brown, of the No. 11 engine, came near meeting with a serious accident last week. A portion of the roof over the track fell and the engine running into same was badly damaged. Joe escaped with some flesh wounds.

So interested were our miners here in the production of coal that they almost forgot that Tuesday, Nov. 4th was election day.

Foreman Longstaff was called to the Hecla mine one day last week to look after some contemplated changes in shaft. Tom has gained quite a reputation as an expert on shaft sinking and repairs.

Assistant Mechanical Engineer N. W. Umstead had some serious trouble with one of his eyes last week, caused by a small piece of metal getting into it.

Many persons who use hard coal have but little idea of the narrow limits within which the rich deposits are found. They are all in Pennsylvania, and if the whole of the three big fields were brought together in one compact body it would be no larger than a county twenty-four miles long and twenty-two miles wide.

But when the wonderfully productive seams and strata down deep in the bowels of the earth of this seemingly small county are considered the area in square miles has little or no significance. The best idea of its capacity to produce coal may be formed when it is stated that the anthracite production reaches all the way from 50,000,000 to 60,000,000 tons a year.

There are three principal fields, all in the northeastern corner of the state, the Wyoming, the Schuylkill and the Lehigh region, mentioned in order of their importance. In 1900 the output in round numbers was: Wyoming, 25,000,000 tons; Schuylkill, 13,500,000 tons; Lehigh, 7,000,000.

A recent volume showing the mineral resources of the United States for the calendar year 1901, United States Geological Survey, estimates the world's production of coal in 1901 at 866,165,540 short tons. The three great coal producing countries of the world are the United States, Great Britain and Germany. The output of these three countries combined makes up 81.61 per cent. of the world's total. Austria-Hungary comes fourth, France is fifth, Belgium sixth and Russia seventh. The last country, notwithstanding its vast area, produces only about 6 per cent. as much coal as the United States.

The L. & N. is now running chair cars on the Memphis line between Bowling Green and Memphis. These cars are a great improvement over the old style seats and one can rest as comfortably as if at home in the rocker. The L. & N. is all right. She keeps abreast of the times.

LOCOMOTIVE BLASTS

Conductor Sam Morgan has gone to house keeping at his residence in the city.

There have been several changes among the brass pounders this week.

Operator Elliott has severed his connection with the company and will go in business in Illinois for himself.

Operator Grasty has returned from Mortons, where he has been on the sick list for several days.

Operator Sanders went to Cincinnati last week on account of the illness of his sister.

Operator Prather is now working days at this place during the absence of Operator Sanders.

Operator McKeown is now day copier since Mr. Elliott has resigned.

Operator Smith, of Slaughters, is now night copier in the dispatcher's office.

An amusing incident occurred at Mason, Tenn., on the Memphis line one day recently. Train 101 pulled into Mason and stopped. There was a fresh guy sitting at a window ogling the girls on the platform. As the train started to pull out he waved a kiss to a pretty girl near by and shouted: "Good-bye, darling, I will see you later." The train pulled down to the switch and backed in the siding for 104. While waiting for 104 to come, a lank six footer boarded the train and took the fresh guy by the collar and proceeded to mop up the floor with him, remarking as he left: "The next time you try to flirt with a pretty gal in a strange place, be sure that her husband ain't around."

Lee Cozort, the ex-railroad man, of Madisonville, was in the city Tuesday.

Conductor Simons is laying off sick. He hopes to be able to return to work in a few days.

Over 700 men are being employed at present by the Illinois Central shops at Paducah, which is the largest force they have worked since locating there several years ago. The shops have more work than they can dispose of in months.

Lebanon Junction of today is the product of the Louisville & Nashville railroad, which has done much toward the progress of the town and the comfort of its people. This road is now putting up works in the corporate limits that cost over \$100,000, giving work to seventy-five men and causing a great increase in business.—Cor. Courier-Journal.

Dispatcher Houston, who formerly worked at this place, is now working the third trick in Nashville for the N. & D.

Dispatcher Scott is on the sick list this week. Dispatcher Chas. Bauer, of Evansville, relieves him.

Railroad life and politics are about on a par. You never know when some fellow is going to turn you down.

The ladies' coach on the Cottonbelt Route between Memphis and Dallas, Tex., is a thing of beauty and a joy forever. It is fitted up in elegant style with revolving, reclining, cushioned chairs with footstools for each chair and small tables at intervals along the side of the coach for card playing or other purposes. The car is nicely carpeted throughout and is modern in every respect. One can travel from Memphis to Dallas without change in this coach and enjoy all the comforts of a Pullman palace car.